

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD November 27, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 27th day of November, 2023 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

Present were:

Gary Leatherman, President
Anita Hess, Vice President
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

Gary Leatherman, Commissioner President, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30am.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – air permit for Linamar Structures
- County Treasurer – Monthly report for October 2023 – duly entered

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated 11/27/2023 were reviewed and approved as presented. The 12-page report totaled \$370,587.67 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 11/30/2023 was reviewed and approved. The 3-page report totaled \$486,022.95. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the report with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment to the CVB – a request was received for an appointment to the Convention & Visitors Bureau. The recommendation was to appoint Patty Gatman to replace Gary Gatman on this board. Anita Hess moved to make that appointment. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0
- Also under new business, there had been a court order signed by Circuit Court Judge Michael Kramer stating that while they approve of the Chief Probation Office Stacey Beam being considered an exempt employee, they do not approve the two asst chief probation officers, Danyel Wagner and Jarod Owen be considered exempt. The order stated that they are judicial employees not county employees and therefore are governed by the courts. Gary Leatherman was frustrated with the order, given that department heads of the 7 employees that there recently determined to be exempt employees were given the opportunity to come before the commissioners at a previous meeting before this decision was made and no one from probation was in attendance. That being said the court order is duly entered in the commissioner's file.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, was present and had the following information to come before the commissioners:

- Utility Permits for Frontier Communications
- Driveway Variance – Adam Sands is requesting a variance for a driveway. Richard reported that his 175 feet short on sight distance and he is recommending that some excavation work be done as well as removal of some fencing in order to improve the location. Also hidden drive signage will be required. Gary Timmerman moved to

approve the variance with the condition of the requirements mentioned by Richard. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ENGINEERING

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following update for the commissioners:

- Call for Projects FY 2029 – The two bridges as well as the Baseline Road project have been submitted for consideration for this round of federal projects.
- The Bridge Asset Management Plan was submitted to the state and has been approved.
- Annual Bids will be coming in and will be opened at the December 11, 2023 meeting.
- HMA 2023 -01 – with final invoicing done – this project has been closed out.
- HMA 2023 -02 – this was awarded to Pulver's Asphalt and is scheduled to start in early spring.
- LPA projects – all awarded projects are proceeding as scheduled.
- Hill Road – there has been a request for a speed study on Hill Road. The study being complete, Zack had the following to report. There are typical issues of occasional speeding in this stretch of roadway. This roadway is currently at the “unsigned” speed limit of 55MPH. Zack reported that the average speed was 45 MPH, with the typical speeding happening at times. At this time, Zack is not recommending any reduced speed, but indicated that the department would put up signage and, as always, notify the sheriff's department so that officers can do more patrol in that area.
- Permitting Software – while Zack had looked at programming for permitting at the highway department, the cost of the software outweighed the revenue of permitting and therefore this project is on hold. Zack is asking the commissioners to revisit a recent determination to not charge permitting fees for broadband fiber optic. At first this was an effort to encourage broadband installation, but since that time the federal government has provided millions of dollars to the companies for broadband installation. Motion to draft an amendment to the ordinance and now allow fees to be charged was made by Anita Hess and seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following report for the renovation of the courthouse:

- Bids were received and the eight-million-dollar project has now become a \$11,300,000.00 project. Zack reported that he along with Weigand and American StructurePoint are working continuously to get the cost down, but findings like the flooring on the first floor going from a \$67,000.00 project to a \$395,000.00 project because of no base – are things that are unavoidable.
- On the Brightside of things, because of the flooring situation on the first floor – the plumbing of the bathroom might be more cost effective and if moved around will free up some space on that floor giving the clerk more space.
- Zack discussed masonry and steel work will be looked at as far as cost and the possibly of putting off some of that work.
- Zack also reported that the flooring on the 3rd floor is worse than expected as well and other options are being explored.
- Funding options are at the top of this list as to how this project will move forward and further discussions with the council will be done at their next meeting.
- Zack provided an updated schedule for the commissioners with a December 2024 completion date which might mean an early spring move in.

AUDITOR

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, was present to request a waiver of the remainder of the 90-day period of 10% salary reduction for the payroll deputy in her office. Shelley reported that the new employee has had previous payroll experience at another company and within a short time has been doing the payroll for the county completely on her own. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the waiver of the 10%. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Also discussed was moving to a new timekeeping system with LOW associates. The system is called Advanced Time and at a cost of \$40,000.00 with monthly estimated costs at \$1,525.00. The county is currently with Time Clock Plus and have paid for services through August of 2024. The Auditor indicated that the change is mainly due to customer service as she has not been happy with the TCP service. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the change of companies. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Gary Timmerman also made the motion to give notice to

TCP that we will not renew their contract. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

Teresa Tacket, Plan Director, was present to request appointments to the BZA Board and the plan commission board. For the plan commission, Jeff Cunningham has sat of the board since 2020 and is willing to continue his service to that board. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the appointment of Jeff Cunningham to continue to sit on the board from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

For the BZA board, Pattie Gatman is the recommendation and has served on the board in the past. Gary Timmerman moved to appoint Pattie to the BZA Board. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

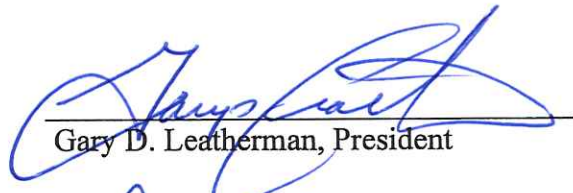
During the discussion, Gary Timmerman asked if there was notification sent out as to there being an opening on the board. Teresa indicated that this usually only happened when the previous board member is no longer interested. Gary thought that this might be a good practice going forward as a way of getting new people - new ideas etc. No motion was made to do this as a requirement but all agreed that this might be a good idea moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Anita seconded the motion. Motion carried.

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 10:30 am recessed from day to day until December 11, 2023

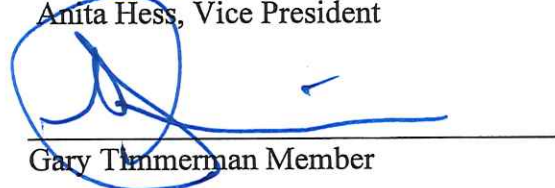
Dated this 11TH day of DEC, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor